AVAILABILITY OF SURPLUS BAMBOO RESOURCES

Name of Division	Government Forests		Private Forests	
	Area in acres	Yield in tons of air-dry bamboos	Area in acres	Yield in tons of air-dry bamboos
Wynad	18,667	38,347	..	..
Kozhikode	20,045	61,479	14,755	32,391
Nilambur	18,865	46,336	20,988	24,015
Palaghat	3,090	8,634	2,890	5,586
Nemmara	6,800	18,054	25,460	81,361
Total	*67,467*	*172,678*	*64,100*	*143,353*

Source: Department of Forests, Kerala.

4.33 Out of the above surplus, it was recently agreed to supply 1,60,000 tons to M/s Gwalior Rayons for setting up a Rayon factory. They have also been promised an additional 1,00,000 tons when the factory is in full production. The latter amount could only be made available after the private forests have been acquired by the Government. No extraction has so far been started owing to the flowering that has taken place over a wide area in the forests.

4.34 On the basis of the above estimate of available and committed supplies, there still remains a balance of about 56,000 tons which could be utilized as raw material for paper manufacture. However, the paper mill project can be undertaken only after full regeneration in the flowered areas has taken place.[1]

4.35 During this interval it would be advisable to undertake surveys of other bamboo-bearing areas in the Travancore-Cochin area. At the same time efforts should be made to divert a part of bamboo at present being utilized for local requirements to industry. Far too high a proportion (about 66%) is being utilized for non-industrial uses.

4.36 (*ii*) *Eta Reed Resources* : The two reeds *Ochlandra travancorica* and *Ochlandra Rheedi* occur in forests of the State. These reeds are at present being supplied under a concession granted to Punalur Paper Mills Ltd. The reeds in these coupes flowered from 1953–57 and, consequently, the Punalur Mill is getting only about 5,000 tons of reeds from the allotted coupes against their annual requirements of 25,000 tons of green reeds. After full generation takes place in the flowered area, the available supply of eta reeds would be roughly 50,000 tons. The surplus of 25,000 tons may by utilized by the Punalur Paper Mills which is planning to double its present capacity during the Third Plan.

4.37 (*iii*) *Minor Forest Produce* : A large number of medicinal plants exist in the State. But the potential is hardly being utilized. Against a gross revenue of Rs. 3.1 crores from the forests, minor forest produce was responsible for only Rs. 5.2 lakhs, that is, 1.7 per cent. This is unlike the neighbouring States of Mysore and Madras where minor forest produce contributed a substantial part of the revenue. A phyto-chemical plant is being set up at Neriamangalam. It will require a large

[1] Further details of a paper factory are discussed in the Chapter on Industries.